

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) An electrode assembly divided into a plurality of segments which are each separated by a fold, to, in turn, facilitate a fan-fold orientation, comprising:

- a separator having an anode side and a cathode side;
- an anode current collector and a cathode current collector, wherein an anode active material is associated with the anode current collector, and wherein, a cathode active material is associated with the cathode current collector, and wherein, the anode active material is associated with at least a portion of the anode side, and wherein, the cathode active material is associated with at least a portion of the cathode side; ~~[[andand]]~~

wherein the separator includes an upper edge and a lower edge, at least a portion of the upper edge of one of the anode side and the cathode side of the separator and at least a portion of the lower edge of one of the anode side and the cathode side of the separator being substantially free of at least one of the respective anode and cathode active material and at least one of the respective anode and cathode current collector; and,

wherein the portions of the separator corresponding to at least one of the folds are substantially free of at least one of the anode active material and cathode active material resulting in a gap between the respective side of the separator and the respective current collector.

2. (previously presented) The electrode assembly of claim 1 wherein the portions of the separator corresponding to at least one of the folds are substantially free of each of the anode active material and the cathode active material resulting in a gap between each side of the separator and the respective current collector.
3. (previously presented) The electrode assembly of claim 1 wherein the portions of the separator corresponding to each of the folds are substantially free of each of the anode active material and cathode active material resulting in a gap between each side of the separator and the respective current collector proximate each of the folds.
4. (Cancelled).
5. (currently amended) The electrode assembly of claim ~~[[44]]~~5 wherein the upper and the lower edge of the cathode side of the separator being substantially free of cathode active material and the cathode current collector.
6. (previously presented) The electrode assembly of claim 5 wherein the cathode active material and the cathode current collector are coextant and are substantially centered along the separator.
7. (previously presented) The electrode assembly of Claim 1 wherein the anode current collector is coextant with the anode active material.

8. (previously presented) The electrode assembly of claim 1 wherein the cathode current collector is coextant with the cathode active material.
9. (previously presented) The electrode assembly of claim 1 wherein at least one of a portion of the anode active material and a portion of the cathode active material is associated with at least one of a portion of the anode side and a portion of the cathode side respectively via an adhesive.
10. (previously presented) The electrode assembly of claim 1 wherein at least one of the anode current collector and the cathode current collector includes at least one slit corresponding to at least one fold of the electrode assembly.
11. (previously presented) The electrode assembly of claim 1 wherein each of the anode current collector and the cathode current collector includes at least one slit corresponding to at least one fold of the electrode assembly.
12. (previously presented) The electrode assembly of claim 10 wherein each of the anode current collector and the cathode current collector each include at least one slit corresponding to each of the folds of the electrode assembly.
13. (previously presented) An electrode assembly divided into a plurality of segments which are each separated by a fold, to, in turn, facilitate a fan-fold orientation, comprising:
- a separator having an anode side and a cathode side;

- an anode current collector and a cathode current collector, wherein an anode active material is associated with the anode current collector, and wherein, a cathode active material is associated with the cathode current collector, and wherein, the anode active material is associated with at least a portion of the anode side, and wherein, the cathode active material is associated with at least a portion of the cathode side; and

wherein the separator includes an upper edge and a lower edge, at least a portion of the upper edge of one of the anode side and the cathode side of the separator and at least a portion of the lower edge of one of the anode side and the cathode side of the separator being substantially free of the respective anode or cathode active material and the respective anode or cathode current collector.

14. (previously presented) The electrode assembly of claim 13 wherein the upper and the lower edge of the cathode side of the separator being substantially free of cathode active material and the cathode current collector.

15. (previously presented) The electrode assembly of claim 14 wherein the cathode active material and the cathode current collector are coextant and are substantially centered along the separator.

16. (previously presented) The electrode assembly of claim 13 wherein the portions of the separator corresponding to at least one of the folds are substantially free of each of the anode active material and the cathode active material resulting in a gap between each side of the separator and the respective current collector.

17. (previously presented) The electrode assembly of claim 13 wherein the portions of the separator corresponding to each of the folds are substantially free of each of the anode active material and cathode active material resulting in a gap between each side of the separator and the respective current collector proximate each of the folds.

18. (previously presented) The electrode assembly of Claim 13 wherein the anode current collector is coextant with the anode active material.

19. (previously presented) The electrode assembly of claim 13 wherein the cathode current collector is coextant with the cathode active material.

20. (previously presented) The electrode assembly of claim 13 wherein at least one of a portion of the anode active material and a portion of the cathode active material is associated with at least one of a portion of the anode side and a portion of the cathode side respectively via an adhesive.

21. (previously presented) The electrode assembly of claim 13 wherein the at least one of the anode current collector and the cathode current collector includes at least one slit corresponding to at least one fold of the electrode assembly.

22. (previously presented) The electrode assembly of claim 13 wherein each of the anode current collector and the cathode current collector includes at least one slit corresponding to at least one fold of the electrode assembly.

23. (previously presented) The electrode assembly of claim 13 wherein each of the anode current collector and the cathode current collector each include at least one slit corresponding to each of the folds of the electrode assembly.

24. (previously presented) An electrode assembly divided into a plurality of segments which are each separated by a fold, to, in turn, facilitate a fan-fold orientation, comprising:

- a separator having an anode side and a cathode side;
- an anode current collector and a cathode current collector, wherein an anode active material is associated with the anode current collector, and wherein, a cathode active material is associated with the cathode current collector, and wherein, the anode active material is associated with at least a portion of the anode side, and wherein, the cathode active material is associated with at least a portion of the cathode side; and

wherein at least one of the anode current collector and the cathode current collector includes at least one slit corresponding to at least one fold of the electrode assembly.

25. (previously presented) The electrode assembly of claim 24 wherein each of the anode current collector and the cathode current collector includes at least one slit corresponding to at least one fold of the electrode assembly.

26. (previously presented) The electrode assembly of claim 24 wherein each of the anode current collector and the cathode current collector each include at least one slit corresponding to each of the folds of the electrode assembly.

27. (previously presented) The electrode assembly of claim 24 wherein the portions of the separator corresponding to at least one of the folds are substantially free of each of the anode active material and the cathode active material resulting in a gap between each side of the separator and the respective current collector.
28. (previously presented) The electrode assembly of claim 24 wherein the portions of the separator corresponding to each of the folds are substantially free of each of the anode active material and cathode active material resulting in a gap between each side of the separator and the respective current collector proximate each of the folds.
29. (previously presented) The electrode assembly of Claim 24 wherein the anode current collector is coextant with the anode active material.
30. (previously presented) The electrode assembly of claim 24 wherein the cathode current collector is coextant with the cathode active material.
31. (previously presented) The electrode assembly of claim 24 wherein at least one of a portion of the anode active material and a portion of the cathode active material is associated with at least one of a portion of the anode side and a portion of the cathode side respectively via an adhesive.
32. – 47. (withdrawn).